श्री मूल चन्द मीणा: सर, राजस्थान में पानी की विशेष समस्या है ...(**व्यवधान**)....

श्री सभापति: आपके राजस्थान में तो यह नहीं है। आपकी कंस्टीच्युएंसी में भी यह समस्या नहीं है। ...(**व्यवधान**)... चलिए, चलिए।

Soldiers killed while fighting terrorists

*206. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of soldiers who laid down their lives while fighting against terrorists during the last three years;

(b) whether Government are taking any appropriate steps to check such terrorist attacks; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) Number of soldiers who laid down their lives while fighting against terrorists during the last three years is as follows:

Year	Officers	Junior Commissioned Officers	Other Ranks	Total
2002	23	20	211	254
2003	23	24	194	241
2004	15	9	163	187
2005 (till 28th November, 2005)	11	9	112	132

The current multi pronged Counter Proxy War strategy adopted by the Army imcorporates an integrated dynamic counter infiltration posture, relentless operations in the hinterland and winning the hearts and minds

of the local populace. The overall counter infiltration strategy of the Army envisages a multi-tiered arrangement, including a forward tier of troop deployment of state-of-the-art surveillance devices, the Line of Control fence and a second tier deployment in conjunction with the fence. This has resulted in substantial drop in the successful infiltration/exfiltration. The Army, in conjunction with other intelligence and security agencies, continually reviews its strategy to deal with other terrorists, based on the ground situation, as also to ensure that infiltration is further minimized and violence levels remain checked.

श्री धर्मपाल सभ्रवाल: सर, मंत्री जी ने जो उत्तर दिया है कि 2002 में घुसपैठ को रोकने में 254 सैनिकों की और 2005 में 132 सैनिकों की मृत्यु हुई, यह बहुत अच्छी उपलब्धि है। यह आधुनिक निगरानी उपकरण और नियंत्रण रेखा पर बाड़ लगाने और दूसरी ओर सरकार का पड़ोसी देशों के साथ अच्छे सलूक पैदा करने की वजह से हुआ है। परन्तु मैं मंत्री जी से यह पूछना चाहूंगा कि अब ये जो छिटपुट घटनाएं होती हैं, ये किस सेक्टर में होती हैं और उस सेक्टर में वे क्या-क्या नए उपाय कर रहे हैं, ताकि ये छोटी-मोटी घटनाएं भी रुक सकें?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, a number of measures are being taken to counteract the terrorist activities especially aided and abetted from the other side of the border or in other parts of the country also. One is, of course improving the surveliance in certain border areas, erecting physical fence, improving the intelligence agencies and also deployment of the security forces at the appropriate areas. In addition to that, both in the North-East and in Jammu and Kashmir, efforts are being made on behalf of the Armed Forces to isolate the terrorists from the local people by carrying on the *Sadhbhavana* Programme to win the hearts of the local people and also to encourage the misguided youth who have joined the militant forces to come back, giving them assurances and place them in the normal life with the support of the Government. The efforts are multi-pronged. But, at the same time, there is no lack of watch, the efforts are continuing even after the earthquake. We thought that there would be some respite, but it has not been so. In the post-earthquake information, which we have received, as many as ten infiltration and exfilterations attempts have been made.

But, it was prevented and as a consequence nearly 25 terrorists were killed.

श्री धर्मपाल सभ्रवाल: सर, मेरा सप्लीमैंटरी क्वैश्चन यह है कि क्या आपने बॉर्डर से आर्मी में कमी की है, अगर की है, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so far as reduction of the armed forces is concerned, last year we had decided to look into this depending upon the situation prevailing. We had also decided to review the situation from time to time. Apart from reductions, there is also redeployment of forces. The security personnel have to be sent for training. So, this is a constant and continuing exercise. Depending upon the state of affairs, review would always be made about the level of redeployment.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, the hon. Defence Minister has said that killings have come down the infiltrations are less. The hon. Home Minister is also sitting here and he has also made a statement to this effect. We are very happy to hear about that. But, my question is, whether this declining trend of killings and infiltration will continue and will the Government manage to continue this? This is not a hypothetical question. It is a very scientific question and I want a specific reply from the hon. Minister whether this trend would be maintained.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, it depends on many factors, no doubt. Here, I must point out that since November, 2003, when President Musharraf decided to have a unilateral cease fire and the Government of India responded to that, the situation has improved and that has created a good atmosphere. After that, in January, 2004, when President Musharraf pointed out, again, that he will not allow PoK to be used by terrorists, it has some marginal impact on the overall situation. I would not say that it has totally, dramatically changed the situation. But these are the pointers towards improvement. And, in the composite dialogue, which we are having with Pakistan, we are emphasising that some infrastructural facilities which are available in the form of camps, in the form of launching pads, in the form of training centres etc. so please ensure that those are dismantled and if they are removed, then it would be possible for us to tackle the situation and bring it under control. This is in respect of J & K. Similar efforts are also being made in the North-Eastern States.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, I must say that the Government should receive congratulations from the House for the fact that the number of officers - junior commissioned and other ranks - who have given their ultimate sacrifice fighting terrorism has come down.

My question relates to hon. Minister's reply. You have enumerated various measures being taken up by the Government to reduce infiltration

and make less deployment of troops. I am sure, you would agree with me and I want to know whether you will agree with me that a very major role in checking infiltration, in finishing off terrorists is played by patriotism, courage and fearlessness of the Indian soldiers who defend the Indian boundaries. What I would like to ask the hon. Minister is this. Is there a difference in the compensation paid to families of those diseased soldiers who fight during war and why is it that the compensation paid to those who lose their lives while fighting with cross-border terrorism or cross-border firing is not as much as the compensation paid to others? Why should it not be at par with them?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I agree with the sentiments of the hon. Member. But, unfortunately, it is a fact that the compensation which we paid to the martyrs in Kargil is not similar to the compensation paid to those who sacrifice their lives in counter-terrorism or anti-militancy activities. And I also agree that all lives are equal. But one of the major reasons, why a higher compensation was given to the martyrs of Kargil War, was that at that point of time, somehow or other, Statements which were very high. It not only happens during a full-fledged war, emotions ran high; substantial contributions were made to the Prime Minister's National Defence Fund. From those funds also adequate compensations were given. But those are not available for the regular operations. But this matter is agitating the minds. My Ministry is addressing this issue and is trying to find out a satisfactory solution. But, till now, I have not yet been able to find out a solution because it involves a substantial quantum of money. I shall have to consult the Ministry of Finance and the Government. But I do entirely agree with the hon. Member that they had made supreme sacrifices. I especially request the House to keep this in mind that today is the Flag Day. When, today, the young widows of the officers came and pinned a flag on me. I just looked at one quotation, which I had in my office room. That quotation is really poignant. Actually it is depicted on the cemetery of Kohima. It was picked up from there. It says, "When you go back home tell them of us. And, you also tell them we gave up our today to secure tommorrow for them." That is the supreme sacrifice that they have made. Therefore, in this matter, I do feel that the entire nation is indebted to them, and we should try to do something.